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- 1 -

Docket No. 0756-2415

2811
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	Art Unit: 2811
Hisashi OHTANI et al.)	Examiner: Junghwa M. Im
Serial No. 10/026,802)	
Filed: December 27, 2001)	
For: METHOD FOR)	
MANUFACTURING A)	
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE)	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with The United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 4-21-04

Rose M. D'Amico

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, Applicant submits herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing references known to Applicant and requests that these references be made of record in the above identified application. Copies of the references listed are submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a).

Except as provided below, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), it is certified that either (1) each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, or (2) no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application and no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

U.S. Patent No. 6,084,247 is in the family of EP 0 612 102. This U.S. Patent was not directly cited by the European Patent Office, but is submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner inasmuch as this U.S. Patent is included in the annex to the Search Report.

U.S. Patent No. 4,534,820, cited in the attached European Search Report, was previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed March 6, 2003 and is not further resubmitted herewith. As noted below, the applicants await consideration of this IDS.

Also, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,147,826 and 5,130,264; WO 86 03621 and EP 0 612 102, cited in the attached European Search Report, were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 27, 2001 and copies are not further resubmitted herewith.

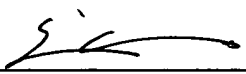
U.S. Patent 4,623,912 (shown in the annex to the European Search Report as being in the family of WO 86 03621); and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,956,579; 5,897,347; 5,608,232; and 5,639,698 (shown in the annex to the European Search Report as being in the family of EP 0 612 102); were also previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 27, 2001 and copies are not further resubmitted herewith.

The Examiner is also requested to evidence consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed April 15, 2002 and March 6, 2003 by providing copies of the initialed Form PTO-1449. Further, on page 1 of 4 of the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 27, 2001, the Examiner inadvertently missed the first reference in the "Other Documents" section. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner evidence consideration of that reference also.

A Notice of Allowance has been received in this application and therefore, the \$180 requisite fee is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
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Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → [+]

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) APR 23 2004 TRADEMARK OFFICE		Application Number	10/026,802
		Filing Date	December 27, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Hisashi Ohtani et al.
		Group Art Unit	2811
		Examiner Name	Junghwa M. Im
		Attorney Docket Number	0756-2415
Sheet 1	of 1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		4,801,351		Awane et al.	01/31/1989	
		6,084,247		Yamazaki et al.	07/04/2000	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP	02-143415			06/01/1990		Abst.

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials ¹	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		European Search Report dated March 5, 2004	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.